

## **HAEMOPHILUS INFLUENZAE, Invasive Disease**

The organism *Haemophilus influenzae* type b causes meningitis, epiglottitis, septic arthritis, and pneumonia, as well as localized infections such as conjunctivitis, sinusitis, otitis media and bronchitis in infants and young children. In adults, the organism often presents as pneumonia. Droplets from the nose and throat spread the organism during the infectious period. A vaccine which protects against invasive disease caused by *H. influenzae* type b (Hib) is recommended for all infants beginning at two months of age. The vaccine has been available since 1985 generating a substantial decrease in rates.

### **Laboratory Criteria for Diagnosis:**

Isolation of *Haemophilus influenzae* from a normally sterile site (blood, CSF, or less commonly, joint, pleural, or pericardial fluid).

### **Case Classification**

*Confirmed:* A clinically compatible case that is laboratory confirmed.

*Probable:* A clinically compatible case with detection of *H. influenzae* type b antigen in the CSF.

Comment--Positive antigen test results from urine or serum samples are unreliable for diagnosis of *H. influenzae* disease.

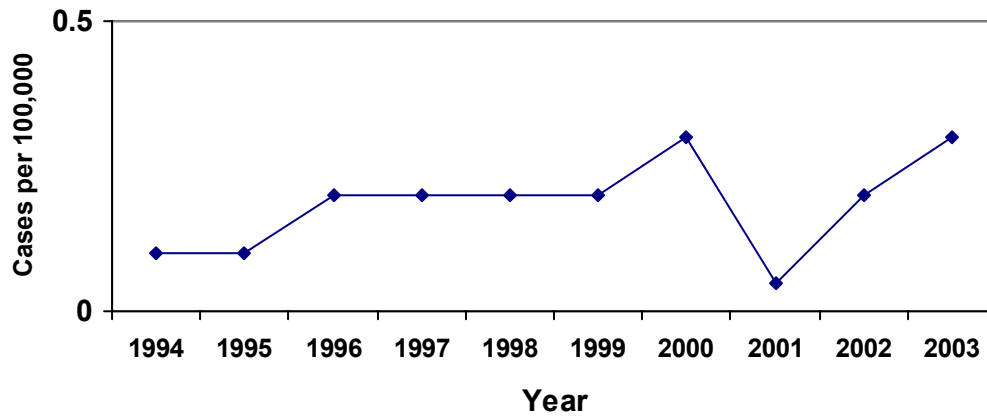
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### **Epidemiology**

<b>Kentucky 2003</b>		<b>Rate per 100,000</b>	<b>U.S. Rate (2001) per 100,000</b>
Cases	12	0.3	0.5

Two of the cases were under 1 year of age. There were three deaths, two teenagers and one person over 65. All reported cases occurred in individuals that were under 18 and greater than 66 years of age. Eleven counties had one case and one county had 2 cases. No outbreaks were reported.

### *H. influenzae* Incidence, Kentucky 1994-2003



### *H. influenzae* Cases 2003

